

maptera, Blattodea, Odonata y Scolopendromorpha complementaron la dieta. Solamente unos pocos roedores pequeños fueron registrados. La proporción de los principales grupos de presa fue similar a lo largo de Free State, pero cambio marcadamente en la estación invernal. Con la progresión del verano austral, la proporción de Solifugae decreció, mientras que los otros grupos de presa aumentaron. La gran proporción de presas crepusculares y nocturnas en la dieta del cernícalo sugiere que este es al menos parcialmente crepuscular en sus hábitos de forrajeo.

[Traducción de César Márquez]

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## RED-SHOULDERED HAWK FEEDS ON CARRION

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KEY WORDS: *Red-shouldered Hawk*; *Buteo lineatus*; feeding; carrion.

At 0804 H on 1 June 1999 at Avon Park Air Force

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Range, Highlands County, Florida, I observed an adult Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) drop off a fence post about 65 m away and land on the grassy shoulder of a paved road. The hawk picked up an object in its talons, flew back to a fence post, and began manipulating the item. Through Zeiss 10 × 25 binoculars, I identified the prey as a Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), with conspicuous white bars on the long, blackish wings. The nighthawk remains appeared to consist solely of feathers

and skin attached to bones of the wings and breast. No meat was visible on the nighthawk's body, and the remains appeared very much like that of a flat study skin.

For 4–5 min, the hawk plucked feathers from what remained of the breast and belly of the nighthawk, then began tearing off and consuming pieces of skin and bone. After the hawk had consumed the edible parts of the breast, it plucked all flight feathers from each of the wings and consumed what remained. Once it had finished eating, the hawk wiped its bill on the post, defecated, and flew off.

The ground around the fence post was littered with numerous flight and body feathers of the nighthawk. There was no blood on the top of the fence post where the hawk plucked and consumed the remains. On the road shoulder where the hawk had picked up the carcass, I found a large "puddle" of nighthawk body feathers, including the rectrices. The area within 0.3 m of the feather "puddle" contained many dozens of small ants, probably red imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*). It appeared that the nighthawk had been killed earlier in the day and its flesh had been consumed by the ants, leaving mostly skin, bones, and feathers. Common Nighthawks roosting on roadsides pre-dawn at the Air Force Range are frequent traffic casualties (D. Leonard pers. observ., and D. Swan pers. comm.).

This observation is one of few published reports of a Red-shouldered Hawk feeding on carrion, and possibly the first observation of the species consuming avian carrion. The only mention in Crocoll (1994) of Red-shouldered Hawks eating carrion refers to Palmer (1988), who mentions a hawk in Florida that was observed to rob crows (*Corvus* spp.) of catfish heads that had been discarded by a river otter (*Lutra canadensis*). On 9 February 2000 at Northampton, Pennsylvania, an adult Red-shouldered Hawk was photographed as it perched on the carcass of a white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). In this case, extremely cold temperature was suggested as the cause for this unusual feeding event (R. Wiltraut in Bur-

geil et al. 2000). The reason for the Florida hawk feeding on a bird carcass was unclear, but a shortage of food probably was not an impetus; herpetofauna was abundant in central Florida during the summer rainy season when I made the observation. Perhaps this simply was a case of opportunistic feeding.

**RESUMEN.**—Observe un halcón de hombros rojizos (*Buteo lineatus*) alimentándose del cadáver de un chotacabras común (*Chordeiles minor*) en Avon Park Air Force Range, Florida. Esta es una de las pocas observaciones de esta especie comiendo carroña, y posiblemente el primer reporte de alimentación sobre los restos de un ave. La razón para este tipo de comportamiento es desconocida, pero un déficit de comida probablemente no fue el factor.

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